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REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 10-23 without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-9 remain pending upon entry of the instant amendment, which is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 and 8 have been allowed. Claim 7 has been indicated as being allowable if amended into independent form. Claim 7 has been amended to include the elements of claims 1 and 6. Thus, claims 3-5 and 7-8 are in condition for issuance.

Claims 9-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 10-23 have been cancelled rendering the rejection to these claims moot.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite, in pertinent part, that the plurality of peripherals have "a plurality of different data types". Support for this amendment can be found at least at paragraph [0017]. It is respectfully submitted that claim 9 as clarified by amendment meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 9-23 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,938,472 to Yuen et al. (Yuen).

Independent claim 1 recites that the tamper monitor detects "tampering with said first peripheral (emphasis added)." Thus, claim 1 requires a tamper monitor that detects tampering with the first peripheral.

The Office Action asserts that anything connected to ports 9 and 10 can be considered a peripheral. See page 3, lines 8-10 of the final Office Action. Further, the

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Office Action acknowledges that: "the Examiner does not disagree with applicant's assertion that the peripherals may be tampered with by hitting them with a hammer". Id. at page 5, lines 12-14. Since hitting the peripheral with a hammer does not remove the endcap 6, the peripherals of Yuen can clearly be tampered with, without removing endcaps 6 and, thus, without being detected.

Further, the Office Action asserts that: "the Examiner believes that the peripherals must be disconnected for the endcap to be removed". Id. at page 5, lines 19-20. Thus, the peripherals of Yuen, namely anything connected to ports 9 or 10, must be removed from the ports before removing the endcap. As such, the peripherals of Yuen can be removed, without removing endcaps 6 and, thus, without being detected.

As such, items connected to ports 9 or 10 of Yuen can be destroyed or even removed from the ports without being detected. In contrast, claim 1 requires a tamper monitor that detects tampering with the first peripheral.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the endcaps 6 of Yuen do not detect tampering with the "peripheral devices" connected to ports 9 and 10. Rather, the system of Yuen merely detects removal of the endcaps 6. Thus, the system of Yuen is limited to detecting tampering with communication device 2, but Yuen can not detect tampering with the peripherals connected via ports 9 and 10.

In addition, claim 1 requires that the first end cap is "removably connected to" the first peripheral.

Again, the Office Action asserts that anything connected to ports 9 and 10 can be considered a peripheral. See page 3, lines 8-10 of the final Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the items connected to ports 9 and 10 are not removably connected to the end cap. Rather, these items are merely removably connected to the ports 9 and 10, not to endcap 6.

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Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 6, and 9 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from allowable claim 1. According, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1, 2, 6, and 9 are respectfully requested.

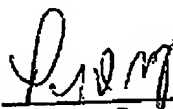
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

In the alternative, it is believed that the instant amendment places the present application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the instant amendment are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul D. Greeley
Registration No. 31,019
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401